

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (new): A method of representing road geometry comprising:

determining an arc length between two points along a road;

determining a chord length between said points along the road; and

comparing said arc length to said chord length;

whereby a result of said comparing is an indication of how much the road curves between said two points.

Claim 18 (new): The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

using said indication of how much the road curves to adjust a speed of a vehicle.

Claim 19 (new): The method of Claim 17 further comprising:

storing said indication of how much the road curves in a geographic database.

Claim 20 (new): The method of Claim 17 wherein said determining steps are performed using shape point data that represent geographic coordinates at locations along the road.

Claim 21 (new): The method of Claim 17 wherein said step of comparing is performed by an application in a vehicle.

Claim 22 (new): The method of Claim 21 wherein said step of comparing is performed using data contained in a geographic database located in said vehicle.

Claim 23 (new): The method of Claim 17 wherein said step of determining said arc length comprising determining an approximation of a distance along the road between said points.

Claim 24 (new): The method of Claim 17 wherein said step of determining said chord length comprising determining an approximation of a straight-line distance between said points.

Claim 25 (new): The method of Claim 17 wherein said result of said comparing is a bowing coefficient.

Claim 26 (new): A geographic database formed according to the process of Claim 17.

Claim 27 (new): A geographic database comprising:

a data representation of a plurality of roads in a geographic region;
wherein said data representation includes an indication of curvature along at least one of said roads; and
wherein said indication of curvature includes a comparison between an arc length between points along the road and a chord length between said points.

Claim 28 (new): A method of operating a vehicle along roads using the geographic database of Claim 27, comprising:

using said indication of curvature to adjust a speed of a vehicle.

Claim 29 (new): The method of operating the vehicle of Claim 28 wherein a speed at which said vehicle is moving is reduced as said vehicle approaches a portion of said roads at which said comparison of said arc length and said chord length is relatively higher.

Claim 30 (new): The method of operating the vehicle of Claim 28 wherein a speed at which said vehicle is moving is increased as said vehicle approaches a portion of said roads at which said comparison of said arc length and said chord length is relatively lower.

Claim 31 (new): The geographic database of Claim 27 wherein said arc length is an approximation of a distance along the road between said points.

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Claim 32 (new): The geographic database of Claim 27 wherein said chord length is an approximation of a straight-line distance between said points.

Claim 33 (new): The geographic database of Claim 27 wherein said comparison between said arc length and said chord length is a bowing coefficient.

Claim 34 (new): A method of determining how much a road curves comprising:
determining an approximation of an arc length between two points along the road;
determining an approximation of a chord length between said points; and
comparing said arc length to said chord length, wherein a result of said comparing is an indication of how much the road curves between said points.

Claim 35 (new): The method of Claim 34 wherein said steps of determining are performed using shape point data that represent geographic coordinates along the roads.